# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

MESSAGE CENTER

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Authority: EO 13526
DIA FOIA & Declassification Services Offices
Date: Oct 17, 2018

VZCZCMAY501 ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ ZYUW
MULT 4838

ACTION: DIA(210
DISTR: OPR IADB(1) USRMCLO(1) CJCSC(4) DJS(1) SJCS(1) J3(14) J4(8)
J5(7) SAGA(4) NSC(1) STATEOP SECDEF(10) ARPA(6) DIMO(1)
ASD:ISA(10) ASD:M&RA(1) ATSD:AE(1) ASD:C3I(4) DP&E(3)
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RULYSCC T USS ALAMO USS ANCHORAGE USS CAYUGA USS SCHENECTADY
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RULYSCC T USS FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT USS JUNEAU USS KITTY HAWK
RULYSCC T USS JOHN F KENNEDY USS NEW ORLEANS USS RANGER
RULYSCC T USS CONSTELLATION USS CORAL SEA USS BLUE RIDGE
RULYSCC T USS TUSCALOOSA USS MOUNT WHITNEY USS OKINAWA
RULYSCC T USS PT DEFIANCE USS SARATOGA USS TARAWA
RULYSCC T USS ENTERPRISE USS MOUNT WHITNEY
RULYSCC T CTG77PT6 CTG76PT4 CTG76PT5 CTG79PT4 CTG77PT5 CTG77PT9
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TO RUCRDIH/DIACURINTEL [redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424;(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)
BT
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L/NOFORN~~ 4838
FROM DN-2G

SUBJ: DIA DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE NOTICE (DIN) (U)

DIADIN 138-6A (AS OF: 1445 EDT 18 MAY 77)

ARGENTINA: CHURCH VS STATE. (U)

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1. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE MILITARY CAME TO POWER IN MARCH 1976, HAS PUBLICLY CONDEMNED THE GOVERNMENT FOR WHAT IT CONSIDERS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO ELEMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BECOME INCREASINGLY STRAINED UNLESS THE CHURCH SOON SEES SOME PROGRESS IN HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ DRIVEN BY THE REALIZATION THAT THERE IS NO VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO MILITARY RULE, THE CHURCH HAS FOLLOWED A COURSE OF PRIVATE DIPLOMACY IN CRITICIZING THE VIDELA GOVERNMENT. THIS HAS HAD NEGLIGIBLE INFLUENCE ON THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP. AS A CONSEQUENCE, THE CHURCH HAS NOW OPENLY CONDEMNED THE STATE FOR FREQUENT UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCES AND DETENTIONS, KIDNAPINGS, LENGTHY CONFINEMENT WITHOUT CHARGES, AND THE APPARENT USE OF TORTURE ON POLITICAL PRISONERS.

3. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ GOVERNMENT REACTION TO THE CHARGES CAME IN A 12 MAY NEWS CONFERENCE BY PRESIDENT VIDELA WHILE VISITING VENEZUELA. HE STATED THAT THE ACCUSATIONS WERE JUSTIFIABLE EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN SHARED BY A CERTAIN SECTOR OF THE ARGENTINE PUBLIC. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT INTERPRET THE CHURCH'S STATEMENT AS THE BEGINNING OF A BATTLE WITH THE STATE, HARDLINE CONSERVATIVES AND ANTISUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES COULD FORCE THE MODERATE VIDELA GOVERNMENT INTO A CONFLICT. THIS IS NOT CONSIDERED LIKELY FOR THE TIME BEING AND WOULD PROBABLY ONLY OCCUR IF THE HARDLINERS WERE TO OVERRIDE VIDELA AND THE APPARENT MAJORITY OF MODERATE OFFICERS WHO NOW CONTROL THE GOVERNMENT. FOR NOW, THE CHURCH'S CRITICISM MAY WELL CAUSE THE GOVERNMENT TO BE TOUGHER IN ITS ANTISUBVERSIVE CAMPAIGN, WITH MANY OFFICERS INTERPRETING THE CHARGES AS AN UNWARRANTED INTERFERENCE IN STATE AFFAIRS.

4. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ WITH CONTINUED GRADUAL EROSION OF THE SUBVERSIVE THREAT, A NEW DIRECTION IN HUMAN RIGHTS MAY EVENTUALLY BE FORTHCOMING. VIDELA, A DEVOUT PRACTICING ROMAN CATHOLIC, WOULD LIKE TO SEE IMPROVEMENT IN HUMAN RIGHTS; HOWEVER, HIS MODERATE SUPPORT WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES IS PROBABLY NOT SUFFICIENT TO INSTITUTE CHANGES AT THIS TIME.

~~PREPARED BY~~ [redacted]
~~(DIA-31 DEC 81)~~

(b)(3):10 USC 424

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